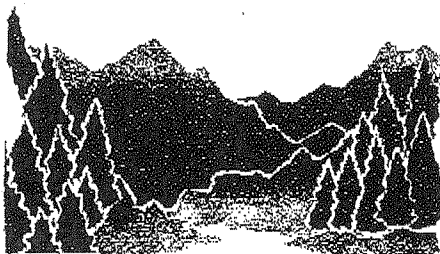


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## LAKE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

106 FOURTH AVENUE EAST  
POLSON, MT 59860-2175

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January 16, 2013

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages	1
To: Mike Cuffe (R-CH)		From:	Susan Brueggeman
Co: State of MT		Co:	Lake Co. Env. Health
Dept: Nat. Resources - Trans		Phone #	406-883-7236
Fax # 406-444-4825		Fax #	406-883-7205

Representative Mike Cuffe, Chair  
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

RE: HB2 - LETTER OF SUPPORT  
Base Funding for the DEQ Subdivision Section

Dear Chairman Cuffe and Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation:

This letter is in support of base funding for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Subdivision Section.

Currently, the subdivision program is funded only by subdivision application fees. While this may be adequate when subdivision activity is high, it has proved to be very inadequate to support essential staff services when it is low. Unfortunately, the recent economic downturn resulted in several qualified staff members leaving the program.

Essential functions of the subdivision section in addition to subdivision application review include keeping regulations updated, writing new regulations as required for changing technologies, providing legal guidance regarding the regulations, providing technical guidance regarding local wastewater system permitting and design, and responding to compliance resolution for existing subdivisions.

Also, when subdivision activity increases, having a well-trained base staff will mean better service for all since there will be less lag time for hiring and training.

Base funding will be of great benefit to local environmental health departments, to environmental consultants who prepare subdivision applications and other provide other environmental services, and to the public by having trained staff overseeing the many important issues that come before this section.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Brueggeman, R.S.  
Director

